

INTIMATIONS
BROWN, JONES & CO.
MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS.
AMERICAN MARBLE.
ITALIAN MARBLE.
HONGKONG GRANITE.
Designs and Prices on application.
Office, 174 QUEEN'S RD. CENTRAL, 1st Floor.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

SCOTCH WHISKY.

A—THORNE'S BLEND White Capsule \$10.80

B—WATSON'S GLENORCHY MELLOW BLEND, Blue Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark 10.80

C—WATSON'S ABOLLOUR-GLENLIVET, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark. 12.00

D—WATSON'S H.K.D. BLEND OF THE FINEST SCOTCH MALT WHISKIES, Violet Capsule 14.40

E—WATSON'S VERY OLD Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule 15.00

THORNE'S BLEND and WATSON'S GLENORCHY are high class Soda Whiskies, of greater age than most brands in the market.

ABOLLOUR GLENLIVET is a very old Peat Whisky (smoky) and could not now be replaced in stock at the price.

D is well known for its fine flavour. E is of superb quality and pronounced by leading local connoisseurs to be the best brand in the Hongkong market.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
ESTABLISHED 1841.

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, January 3rd, 1900.

There were four cases of plague last week and three today.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alliance Memorial and National Hospital has acknowledged with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—*Ho-Lin-Chio \$15.*

It is reported amongst the Chinese that Marshal Su is not after all to take up his headquarters at Tientsin, but that he has been ordered back to look after the Kwangtung frontier, where he is in such demand for his French neighbours—*China Gazette.*

We (Kowloon Echo) regret to learn that the Mission House, occupied by the Zenana Ladies at Tin Chung, was burnt down on the 7th inst. Fortunately the fire took place in the day-time and the buildings in the compound, schools, etc., were saved. The disaster was caused by faulty construction of the kitchen chimney.

Yokyo newspapers state that the French Representative, M. Harmand, immediately on the appearance of the post in Japan, sent to France for a quantity of Yeri's lymph, which he now carries with him to the East. His Excellency to the Japanese Authorities. This thoughtful act on the part of the French Minister is greatly appreciated by the Japanese—*Japan Mail.*

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co., in their circular dated 28th December, say:—*"Supplies of old grain are next exhausted. New paddy arrives only in small parcels and prices have not yet settled down. There is some demand for the Philippines rice, but the stocks are low. We quote for new Rice January/February delivery: No. 2, white sifted steam milled (round) \$3.35, No. 2, white unsifted steam milled (round) \$3.30, No. 2, brown cargo \$2.75, 20 per cent cargo \$2.75, first cost per point of 134 lbs. gross English, without duty or any other charges. Freight—Freights are lively at 27/8 cents Java, 30 cents to the Philippines, and 20 cents to Singapore."*

Messrs. W. B. Boyce & Co., in their report dated 28th December, say:—*"There has been a continuous strong tone in the pig market at Glasgow and Middlesbrough during this month, and prices have advanced about 1 1/2 per cent at the former place, and 60 per cent at the latter. Demand has been very good, and stocks in public stores show a decline. Requirements are still fully covered for the year, and continued for a long time to come. In the manufactured iron trade in the Midlands there is great activity, and there have lately been some advances in values; many orders are well provided with work for some months ahead, and plenty of fresh business is coming forward. Copper has lately had more demand, and with a decline in stocks prices have advanced some 12 per cent, and the market is firm. Tin has quite a strong demand during the last month, and has fallen some £17 per ton. Spelter has fallen about 25s per ton, and is easy. Lead has advanced 15s and is firm."*

A sudden storm of extraordinary severity passed over Kolo and Oahu on Saturday evening, 23rd December, being apparently part of a gale affecting all the West Coast and Central Japan. About mid-day the thermometer commenced to fall rapidly, and in Oahu, about four o'clock, there was a heavy rainstorm, which about six o'clock a tropical downpour burst over Kolo, the wind at the same time rising and blowing with great force, while the lightning was incessant. The rain lasted only a short time, but the wind did not abate until about midnight. From our Japanese contemporaries we learn that considerable damage has been done, accompanied by loss of life. On Oahu, the small steamer accident is reported from Oahu, where three tugs belonging to the Oahu Steam Navigation Co., with fifty riggers in tow, which left Kolo at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday for Oahu, encountered the gale at about 7 o'clock on December 24th. The towing ropes broke, and all the boats were set adrift, some foundering, and others being stranded and smashed. Of the 104 men who were on board of these lighters, 10 were rescued by the police boats, and a number were rescued in getting ashore safely, but four bodies have been picked up and thirteen men are missing—*Kobe Chronicle.*

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

London, 1st January.

COMPLETION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

The Trans-Siberian Railway of the Trans-Siberian Railway has been completed, establishing communication by rail with Vladivostok. THE OPEN DOOR IN CHINA. An official United States Communication states that assurances have been received from England, Germany, France, Russia and Japan respecting the maintenance of the open door in China.

SUCCESSFUL MOVEMENT BY GENERAL REINHOLD.

As the enemy was withdrawing from Rong-lung to Chonglung General French pressed a night march. At daybreak, while the infantry and field batteries made a feint attack on the Boer front, the cavalry and light artillery rounded the enemy's right flank.

The Boers were surprised and fled in disorder. The British occupy Chonglung, the tactical position of which is of the utmost importance. A RECONNOISSANCE AT DORDRECHT.

A reconnoitring party had a six hours' fight near Dordrecht (east of Stormberg), and ultimately secured the decisive, the Boers obtaining heavy reinforcements.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

London, 30th December.

THE CAPTURE OF A GERMAN STEAMER AT DELAGOA.

The German steamer *Bandenburger*, with three German officers and twenty men in black uniform on board, has been captured at Delagoa Bay and taken to Durban.

The Government is convinced that the ship was not seized without ample justification, and awaits the judgment of the Prize Court. The *Bandenburger* declares there is no court of war on board, and has appealed to the German Government, who immediately promised intervention.

BOER NEWS FROM MAFFERING.

A Boer despatch states that the British on the 25th inst. totally surprised the Boer force of Mafeking, capturing 100 men. The Boer loss is stated at 40.

SORTIE FROM LADYSMITH.

General White has made a sortie from Ladysmith and captured a hill.

London, 31st December.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE "OPEN DOOR" IN CHINA.

It is stated at Washington that the result of Minister Hay's negotiations secures the principle of an open door in China in a most gratifying manner. Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Japan responded favourably.

BOERS DISPERSED AT DE AAR.

The Volunteers at Diefelstein, 20 miles South of De Aar, dispersed a party of Boers at the railway on Christmas day without any casualties.

BOERS THE WRONG SIDE OF TUGELA.

Reuter's correspondent at Free Camp, 29th December, states that several hundred Boers have been cut off on the South side of the Tugela owing to the river having risen.

A SHELL IN A LADYSMITH MESS ROOM.

Lieut. Dalzel of the Dysons has been killed and other officers wounded by a shell which struck the mess room at Ladysmith.

DISAFFECTION IN CAPE COLONY.

Reports are current of increasing disaffection in Cape Colony, but nothing like concerted action is taking place, and the authorities are fully prepared.

REINFORCEMENTS.

Colonial Volunteers continue supplying at many centres. Another New Zealand Contingent will sail on the 15th January and more will follow.

THE COMMAND OF THE LONDON VOLUNTEERS.

Sir Charles Howard-Vincent commands the London Imperial Volunteer Infantry battalion. THE PRINCE OF WALES HONORARY COLONEL OF THE YEOMANRY.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the Honorary Colonelcy of the Imperial Yeomanry force.

THE BOERS' FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The Times correspondent at Lorenzo Marques states that suspicions are now confirmed of the close relations of the Boers with a foreign Consulate at Pretoria, and that there are persistent rumours at Lorenzo Marques and Durban of guns and ammunition for the Boers being smuggled through Delagoa Bay.

THE RECENT SORTIE FROM MAFFERING.

The Boer report of the Sortie from Maffering on 25th December states that Lord Cavendish-Bentinck was present. Lord Cavendish-Bentinck was present.

MILITARY COMMAND IN IRELAND.

The Duke of Connaught has been appointed to the Command in Ireland.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE WAR.

The United States are sending a military attaché to the Boer forces.

"VOLUNTEER GAZETTE" SERVICE.

LONDON, 31st December.

TAIKOO SPORTS.

SIXTH ANNUAL AMATEUR MEETING.

On Monday the annual amateur meeting took place at Quarry Bay. Though somewhat dark for the spectators, of whom there was a large number, the weather was most favourable for the competitors. As usual the ground was brightly lit by a liberal display of bunting, and the whole meeting was of a most enjoyable character. The competitor who was most to be commended was Mr. J. H. Hanco, who won the 100 Yards Flat Race Handicap.

Mr. J. H. Hanco, who won the 100 Yards Flat Race Handicap, was the only competitor who was most to be commended. He won the first prize for his victory in the 100 Yards Flat Race Handicap.

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THE VINTAGES OF 1899.

MOORE, OUTLET, PALMER & CO. REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

The report we have to make touching the result of the vintage of 1899, as usually happens, somewhat diversified, owing to the various conditions of the weather and the changes of the soil. The vintage of 1899 was a most successful one, and the quality of the wine was of a most superior character. The vintage of 1899 was a most successful one, and the quality of the wine was of a most superior character.

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VESSELS ON THE BERTH

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.

(Passenger Service). (Freight Service).

Taking Cargo at through rates to ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, LONDON, Oporto, London, Liverpool, London, Newcastle, Bremen, Genoa, ports in the Levant; Black Sea and Baltic Ports, North and South American Ports.

PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATION.	SAILING DATES.
SA. SARNIA	HAMBURG	About 17th
SA. AMERICA	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. WITTENBERG	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. SARNIA	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. AMERICA	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. WITTENBERG	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. SARNIA	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. AMERICA	HAMBURG	January 1st
SA. WITTENBERG	HAMBURG	January 1st

For further particulars as to Freight, Passage, etc., apply to

CARLOWITZ & CO.

AGENTS.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1900.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY).

PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATION.	SAILING DATES.
HAKUJI MARU	AMOI, SHANGHAI AND KOBE	Thursday, 4th January, at daylight.
WAKASA MARU	YOKOHAMA (DIRECT)	Friday, 5th January, at 4 p.m.
INABA MARU	MARSHALLS, LONDON AND ANTWERP, VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID	Sunday, 14th January.
KENSHU MARU	VICTORIA, B.O. AND SEATTLE, U.S.A. VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID	Monday, 15th January, at 4 p.m.
KAMAKURA MARU	MARSHALLS, LONDON AND ANTWERP, VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID	Friday, 26th January, at noon.
YAMATO MARU	MANILA, THURSDAY ISLAND, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, BRISBANE, MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, OCEAN PASSAGE	Friday, 26th January, at 4 p.m.

Through Passage Tickets and Bills of Lading issued for the Principal Cities in the United States, Canada, and Europe, in connection with the GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY and Atlantic Steamers.

For further information as to Freight, Passage, Sailings, etc., apply at the Company's Local Branch Office at No. 7, Praya Central.

A. S. MIHARA,

Manager.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1899.

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL ON	REMARKS.
LONDON, &c.	PARANATTA	Noon, 6th Jan. 1900	See Special Advertisement.
SHANGHAI	VALERIA	About 6th Jan. 1900	Freight or Passage.
YOKOHAMA VIA NAU	ROBERTA	About 6th Jan. 1900	Freight or Passage.
QASAKI AND KOBE	C. C. Talbot, R.N.	Jan. 1900	Freight or Passage.
SHANGHAI, NAKI, CANTON	ROBERTA	About 11th Jan. 1900	Freight or Passage.
KOBE AND YAMATA	C. C. Talbot, R.N.	Jan. 1900	Freight or Passage.
LONDON	MAJOR	About 13th Jan. 1900	Freight.
LONDON	R. T. Cook, R.N.	Jan. 1900	Freight or Passage.

For Further Particulars, apply to

H. A. RITCHIE, Superintendent.

Hongkong, 3rd January, 1900.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY.'S

ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

THE FAST ROUTE BETWEEN CHINA, JAPAN AND EUROPE, VIA CANADA; CALLING AT SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA AND VICTORIA, B.C.

SAFETY. SPEED. PUNCTUALITY.

Twin Screw Steamships—6,000 Tons—10,000 Horse-Power—Speed 10 knots.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

EMPEROR OF CHINA, Comdr. E. Archibald, R.N., WEDNESDAY, 17th Jan. 1900.

EMPEROR OF JAPAN, Comdr. G. A. Lee, R.N., WEDNESDAY, 14th Jan. 1900.

The magnificent TWIN-SCREW STEAMSHIPS of this Line pass through the famous INLAND SEA OF JAPAN, and usually make the voyage YOKOHAMA to VANCOUVER in 12 days, saving THREE DAYS to a WEEK in the Trans-Pacific journey and make connection at Vancouver with the PACIFIC TRANS-CONTINENTAL TRAINS of the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, which leave daily, and cross the Continent FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE ATLANTIC WITHOUT CHANGE. Close connection is made at Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, New York and Boston with all Trans-Atlantic Lines, and passengers to Great Britain and the Continent are given choice of.

Passengers Booked through to all principal ports and AROUND THE WORLD. Return tickets to various ports at reduced rates. Good for 6, 9, and 12 months.

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Hongkong, 28th December, 1899.

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VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING

LONDON, &c.	PARANATTA	Brit. str.	A. Symons, R.N.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 8th inst., at Noon
LONDON, &c.	Diomed	Brit. str.	Goodwin	Butterfield & Swire	On 9th inst.
LONDON, &c.	Andalus	Brit. str.	Goodwin	Butterfield & Swire	On 10th inst.
LONDON, &c.	Andalus	Brit. str.	Tyrell	Butterfield & Swire	On 6th Feb.
LONDON	Bombay	Brit. str.	Montford, R.N.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On or about 25th inst.
LONDON	Mangan	Brit. str.	R. T. Cook, R.N.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On or about 13th inst.
ROTTERDAM & LONDON	Dorico	Brit. str.	Stowes	Butterfield & Swire	On or about 13th inst.
ROTTERDAM & LONDON	Dorico	Brit. str.	Stowes	Butterfield & Swire	On 12th inst.
MARSHILLES, &c.	Isula, Maui	Jap. str.	W. Bainbridge	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	On 14th inst.
MARSHILLES, &c.	Kumakura Maen	Jap. str.	Horvitz	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	On 23rd inst., at Noon
MARSHILLES, &c.	Silhuu	Ger. str.	R. Hahnke	Molinos & Co.	On 14th inst., at Noon
MARSHILLES, HAMBURG & HAMBURG	Amberia	Ger. str.	Brannister	Carlowitz & Co.	On 18th inst.
MARSHILLES, HAMBURG & HAMBURG	Sarua	Ger. str.	Fuchs	Carlowitz & Co.	On 17th inst.
MARSHILLES, HAMBURG & HAMBURG	Wittenberg	Ger. str.	Carlowitz & Co.	On or about 27th inst.	
MARSHILLES, HAMBURG & HAMBURG	Wittenberg	Ger. str.	Buhle	Carlowitz & Co.	On or about 28th Feb.
MARSHILLES, HAMBURG & HAMBURG	Teosaa	Brit. str.	Moss	Arnham, Kurling & Co.	On or about 17th inst.
YANGTZE, &c.	Empress of China	Brit. str.	R. Archibald, R.N.	Canton Packet & Co.	On 17th inst.
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Saint Teons	Brit. str.	W. Murray	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	On 17th inst.
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Alberga	Brit. str.	J. Murray	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	On 15th inst., at Noon
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Alberga	Brit. str.	J. Murray	Doddrell & Co. Limited	On 27th inst.
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Alberga	Amer. str.	Toulton	Toulton M. S. Co.	On 16th Feb., at Noon
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Alberga	Brit. str.	G. O. Talbot, R.N.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 23rd inst.
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Alberga	Brit. str.	G. O. Talbot, R.N.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 23rd inst.
VICTORIA, B.C., SHAI, &c.	Alberga	Brit. str.	G. O. Talbot, R.N.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 23rd inst.
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NEWS VIA AUSTRALIA.

DISASTER TO A LIFEBOAT.

London, 8th December.
The Alldburgh lifeboat capsized in a gale off the coast of Suffolk yesterday.
Six of the crew were drowned, and the remainder, numbering 12, were rescued with difficulty.

BRITISH TRADE.

London, 8th December.
The Board of Trade returns for November have been published. They show that the value of the imports had increased by £2,175,997, and the value of the exports had increased by £2,751,733, as compared with the imports and exports for the corresponding month of last year. Included in the increase of exports is a sum representing the value of new ships not embraced in the amount for the corresponding month of the preceding year.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

London, 8th December.
Mr. Duckenhouse, a Conservative, has been elected unopposed to the House of Commons for the Wells Division of Somersetshire.

GERMANY.—THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NAVY.

London, 7th December.
Prince Holstein, the Imperial Chancellor of Germany, has issued a decree repealing the recent prohibition against the union of political societies in the Empire.
This action has, it is understood, been taken with the view of propitiating the Reichstag, and to induce the chamber to regard the Navy Increase Bill in a favourable light.

INTERFERING WITH THE BRITISH MERCANTILE MARINE.

London, 6th December.
Admiral Dapont, of the French Navy, declared in a recent statement that the French Navy was ready and able to bring many *Albatross* against the British, thereby interfering with Great Britain's mercantile marine.

DEATH OF AN IRISH JUDGE.

London, 6th December.
The death is announced of Mr. Justice O'Brien, the judge who tried the Irish "Invincibles" in 1883.

MASSACRES IN ARMENIA.

London, 5th December.
A Renter's message states that Kurdish atrocities have taken place in Armenia.
The Kurds pillaged the village of Kestur and massacred three hundred of the inhabitants.

MADAME MELBA IN BERLIN.

London, 5th December.
Madame Melba yesterday appeared in the opera of "Lucia di Lammermoor" at Berlin. The Emperor and Empress of Germany were present. The performance was most successful. It was declared that never had such enthusiasm been displayed at a Berlin theatre.

INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTS CORPORATION.

London, 5th December.
Mr. Justice Wright, who investigated the affairs of the Industrial Contracts Corporation, has exonerated from blame the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Alfred James Newton, and his co-directors.

THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

London, 6th December.
The United States Congress was opened yesterday.

President McKinley's message to Congress occupies eighteen columns in the newspapers, and is pronounced timid and colourless.

The message states that, apart from the negotiations for the determination of the boundary of Alaska, the relations of the United States with Great Britain are most friendly, although an entangling alliance would be avoided. If Congress would not authorise the Government to lay down a cable from San Francisco to Manila private competition in cable laying would be encouraged.

Turkey had been warned that the situation of American citizens in the Ottoman Empire was unsatisfactory.

The message concluded by stating that it was impossible for the United States to abandon the Philippines.

AUSTRIAN FRIENDSHIP FOR ENGLAND.

London, 3rd December.
Count A. Goluchowski, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in an optimistic speech, stated that the general outlook in Continental politics inspired confidence. He expressed the hope that the South African conflict would remain localised, and said that Austria stood on the footing of her old and undisturbed friendship for England.

FRENCH AND GERMAN ATTACKS ON THE QUEEN.

London, 6th December.
A ribald anti-British song, which concluded with a gross insult to her Majesty the Queen, has been seized in Paris by the police.

A number of German caricatures of the Queen have been seized in Paris.

PRESENT STRENGTH OF THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Sir Redvers Buller, the Commander-in-Chief, who is marching from Frere to the relief of Ladysmith, has 23,000 men under his command, including volunteers.

Lieutenant-General Lord Methuen, who is at Modder River, where he is repairing the railway bridge prior to moving towards Kimberley, has a force of 10,000 men.

Lieutenant-General Sir W. F. Gatacre, who is in command of the Third Division of the Army Corps, in the eastern province of Cape Colony, has a force of 6,000 men.

Major-General J. D. F. French, who recently effected a successful reconnaissance between Naauw and De Aar, when a portion of the New South Wales Lancers were engaged, is in charge of 3,000 men.

The maintenance of railway and telegraphic communication between De Aar and Graspan, on the route to Kimberley, necessitates the employment of 8,000 troops.

DISLOCATION OF THE BRITISH PLANS.

London, 1st December.
The reinforcements which are being made to the British forces in South Africa are the result of the dislocation of the plans, caused by the isolated movements of the troops.
The original plan of a general concerted advance has fallen through and has been abandoned.

REINFORCEMENTS.

London, 6th December.
The big guns and the necessary supplies for the British division under Lieut.-General Lord Methuen have arrived in Cape Colony.

A battery of Horse Artillery and the 12th Lancers have reinforced Lord Methuen.

Mr. Joseph Powell-Williams, Financial Secretary to the War Office, has officially stated that the total number of British troops ordered for service in South Africa is 105,770.

This number includes the forces actively engaged, those en route to Cape Colony, and those ordered for service.

A heavy siege train, with an enormous quantity of ammunition for use in the British attack on Pretoria, has been despatched by the *Tantalion Castle*.

Two battalions of artillery, and other reinforcements, have reached Major-General Sir W. F. Gatacre, commanding the Third Division of the British Army Corps.

The advance of the division is hampered by the spread of the rebellion in the northern portion of Cape Colony.

THE COLONIAL TROOPS.

London, 4th December.
Sir Alfred Milner, the High Commissioner for Cape Colony, visited the Australian troops at Matlaid Bunkers, near Capetown, on November 28. Great enthusiasm prevailed on the occasion. The men have been supplied with Lee-Enfield rifles. Their equipment was largely in excess of the requirements of the Army Regulations, and much of it has been stored.

London, 5th December.
The Australian Contingents have amalgamated their forces, and are commanded by Colonel J. C. Hood, of the Victorian Contingent.

The New Zealand Contingent, under Major A. W. Robin, is at Naauwpoort.

London, 7th December.
The Canadian and Australian troops, who recently arrived in South Africa will form a separate brigade under Lieutenant-General Lord Methuen. They were entrained at Capetown yesterday, and left amid frantic demonstrations of enthusiasm. Sir Alfred Milner, the Governor of Cape Colony, was present at the departure of the troops.

SEDITION IN NATAL.

London, 6th December.
Mr. C. J. Labuschagne, a member of the Legislative Council of Natal for the county of Weenen, has been arrested on a charge of high treason. This specific act alleged against him is that he joined the Boers when they were at Estcourt.

London, 7th December.
Mr. Pretorius, a member of the Natal House of Assembly, has been arrested on a charge of treason.

BRITISH PRISONERS AT PRETORIA.

London, 5th December.
The British prisoners at Pretoria, who, according to a despatch received some weeks ago, were being well treated, are allowed to purchase beer and newspapers.

THE RASBUTS REASSURED.

London, 5th December.
Accounts of the British victories at Graspan and Modder River have greatly reassured the Basutos, who were uneasy on account of Boer plotting.

NURSES FOR THE WOUNDED WELCOMED BY THE QUEEN.

London, 6th December.
The Queen has presented at Windsor Castle a Union Jack to a number of nurses who have offered their services in connection with the war in South Africa. In welcoming the nurses her Majesty remarked, "How sweet of you to care for my men."

Manufacturing shells at Kimberley.
The workshops at the De Beers mine, Kimberley, have been converted into an arsenal and are making shells.

Brigadier-General Yule is invalided.
Brigadier-General Yule is returning to England on account of broken health.

Commandeering of Englishmen.
Eleven Englishmen are being tried by court-martial at Ladysmith, near the south-eastern border of the Orange Free State, for refusing to be commandeered.

Boer surveys at Maritzburg.
It has transpired that General Joubert had a survey made of the country from the Natal frontier to Pietermaritzburg last spring.

Mining at Pretoria.
The mint at Pretoria is coining £100,000 monthly, the gold being the result of crushings at the Bonanza, Robinson, and Ferrina Deep mines.

British blood and treasure not to be vainly sacrificed.
Speaking at the Mercers' Hall last night, Mr. W. H. Long, president of the Board of Agriculture, said that the Government was determined that British blood and treasure should not be vainly sacrificed in South Africa.

Duration of the war.
Mr. J. B. Robinson, the South African millionaire, who is at present in Europe, considers that the fighting strength of the Boers is weakening. He believes that the war will soon be over.

President Kruger's aspiration.
Lord Loch, for six years Governor of Cape Colony and British High Commissioner in South Africa, referred to the situation in South Africa during the course of a speech at the Imperial Institute last night. He said that President Kruger often desired the independence of the Transvaal, and had aspired to the establishment of a navy. The speaker gave it as his opinion that the progress of settlement in South Africa must absorb the Republic.

Mr. Robertson acquitted.
Mr. Robertson (a friend of Mr. Cecil Rhodes), who was held by the Boers on a charge of illegally recruiting in Pretoria, has been acquitted. Mr. Robertson asserted that he was merely assisting in the removal of women and children from the Transvaal.

The position at Ladysmith.
News from Ladysmith and Colenso states that the hills around these places are dotted with large guns. On the elevations surrounding Ladysmith twenty-six guns have been counted.

There is no uselessness regarding the position at Ladysmith. Numbers of the men amuse themselves at cricket, football, and rowing, and the Gordon Highlanders celebrated St. Andrew's Day according to the Scottish custom.

The searchlight apparatus, in use for the purpose of signalling from Frere to Ladysmith, was devised by Captain Scott of H.M.S. *Terrible*.

Ladysmith was safe on the 5th inst.
The situation is daily becoming more difficult. The bombardment by the enemy has done considerable damage.

The wounded have been removed from the hospital owing to the Geneva flags not being respected by the enemy. A shell burst in the vicinity of the building. One invalid was killed and nine others were wounded.

The battle of Modder River.
Later details amplify and in some respects modify the previous accounts of the Battle of Modder River fought last Tuesday by the 10,000 British, under Lieutenant-General Lord Methuen, and the Boers under General Cronje.

Fighting commenced at daybreak and continued without interruption till dusk.

It is estimated that the enemy numbered 11,000, under General Cronje. His troops were entrenched in a semi-circular front, extending over eight miles.

A fierce artillery duel occupied five hours. It then lapsed, and the Scots Guards, believing that Modder River town had been evacuated, advanced.

The evacuation of the town, however, was found not to have taken place, for as soon as the Guards left cover on their advance the enemy met them with a fire so terrible that they had to lie down.

The Scots Guards' Maxim was disabled and many men were killed.

In the afternoon the British made another forward movement.

An extended order the Scots Guards, supported on the right by the Grenadier Guards and the Coldstream Guards, and on the left by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Ninth Brigade, attempted to cross the plain towards the bridge.

Immediately the enemy poured an awful hail of bullets on the advancing British troops.

For two hours the attacking forces were coarcesed, and many were literally mown down by the Boer sharpshooters posted on the northern bank and by machine guns.

When it was nearly dusk the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, still under a merciless fire, succeeded, although losing heavily, in forcing the Modder River, and despite the efforts of the enemy, they retained the position against a vastly superior force.

When night fell Lord Methuen had gained an indecisive victory.

Lord Methuen's staff considered that troops of the British Army never faced a severer and more sustained fire than they did in this battle.

Colonel Codrington (Coldstream Guards) and Captain V. C. M. Selheim, of the Queensland Defence, who was detailed for special service in South Africa, together with a dozen men of the Coldstreams, swam the Modder River in the face of a heavy fire from the enemy for the purpose of reconnoitring.

The men had almost reached the opposite bank when they were forced to retire. Joining hands the two officers swam back. Colonel Codrington became much exhausted and was nearly drowned.

The British guns did tremendous havoc amongst the Boers, compelling them to abandon their extensive entrenchments. During the night the town was evacuated by the enemy, who took their guns with them as they retired.

All the British troops crossed the river in the morning.

The search lights enabled the British to recover the wounded.

The Boers fought with steadiness.

The enemy shelled the British ambulances, professing to be unacquainted with the significance of the Red Cross.

The Boers were hardly visible throughout the battle, and their rifle pits were protected by bullet-proof breastworks. The enemy had been occupied seven weeks in fortifying their position.

When the British infantry was within 80 yards of the Boers the enemy maintained a withering fire, lasting three hours.

The British only advanced in short rushes, leaving heavily whenever they rose from the ground. They gave a wonderful exhibition of undiminished courage.

Late in the afternoon the 82nd Battery arrived on the scene after a 33-mile march, and, opening fire on the enemy, they silenced several of their guns. The shells produced a terrifying effect upon the Boers.

The enemy retreated upon Langeberg and Jacobadai, in the Orange Free State.

London, 5th December.

Further details of the battle at Modder River are to hand.

On several occasions during the progress of the fight the Boers collected under shelter of the Red Cross flag and fired from the position.

During the afternoon a party of about 200 Boers galloped off the field.

The marines made splendid practice with their field guns, and exploded shells in the midst of the fugitives.

During the fight a panic broke out amongst the Free State Artillery, which bolted from the field. The Transvaal forces accuse their allies of cowardice.

Harrowing scenes were witnessed on the battlefield on the morning after the fight. Many Boers were hastily buried where they fell.

A number of buildings in the vicinity were filled with wounded Boers awaiting attention at the hands of the ambulance officers. The groans of the wounded were heartrending. The walls and roofs of the buildings were riddled with shot.

In one trench, from which the enemy had been driven at the point of the bayonet, three dead Highlanders were found. One of them had in his grasp the rifle of an enemy, from whom it had been wrested in a hand-to-hand encounter.

Prisoners who were brought into the British camp report that General Cronje whipped many Boer soldiers to prevent them from fleeing.

Examinations made by British Army surgeons show that the Boers used expensive ammunition.

At the battle of Modder River the British troops were almost maddened by thirst. They could get no water because the watercarts were unable to approach the zone of fire on account of the awful hail of bullets.

General Cronje, who commanded the Boers, considered that the defences he had thrown up would be capable of withstanding the attack of the British for three weeks.

The Boer ammunition carriers to the firing line wore the red cross.

Earl de la Warr, correspondent for *The Globe*, was nearly shot while assisting the wounded at Modder River.

Major Count Glasen, of the Grenadier Guards, who was wounded at the battle of Modder River, has a bullet embedded in his neck.

Commandeering in Bechuanaland.
The Boers at Maritzburg sold the horses, ploughs, and cattle of residents, by auction, giving Transvaals three months' credit.

They have commandeered all whites in Bechuanaland from the age of 14 years upwards.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

From a recent discussion by the British Astronomical Society, it appears that the cause of a much-observed phenomenon is still a mystery.

The new theory was offered by Mr. Cecil J. Dolmage that the apparent enlargement of the moon is an effect of the sky's curvature, which is not noticed at the zenith but apparently increases toward the horizon. This recalled the many other suggestions of recent years.

A Belgian astronomer has sought to prove that the cause is physiological, and that objects overhead always seem smaller than those at the same distance as a level; another idea is that the cause is atmospheric; still another, that the illusion is mental. About the only thing really proved is that measurement with the sextant shows the moon's disc to have the same size at the horizon as at the zenith, except for the slight influence of refraction.

German experiments suggest defective water gages as the cause of many—if not most—mysterious boiler explosions. Using a magnetic indicator, C. Remschel obtained an alarm of low water while the ordinary glass gage showed four inches above the medium level. A defect in the tightness of the steam pipe leading to the top coat was found, and when this was remedied the water level in the glass fell six inches.

It has been assumed that the depth of varying temperature in the soil increases from 1 foot at the equator to 70 odd feet at the poles, yet a shaft in northern Siberia has reached a depth of 1,500 feet without getting through the frost. A western mining engineer explains that this may not disprove the theory, as the deep freezing may be a result of annual accumulations of sediment on unfrozen ground.

Coffee berries are coated with sugar by an English grower, the chamber material increasing the weight from 5 to 10 per cent. In Germany the berry is so closely imitated by prepared maize that detection of the fraud is difficult, even on close inspection.

The full power of belfry bells is felt only through the use of great masses of metal, and it is estimated that the normal "la" of 870 simple vibrations, which is found in the centre of the keyboard of the piano, can be given only by a bell 3 feet in diameter and weighing about 1,000 pounds, while the deep "do" of 32 vibrations from the 32-foot organ pipe would require a bell 105 feet in diameter and weighing 17,500,000 pounds. The Harrington cylindrical bells with which experiments have been made in England during several years, are claimed to give very satisfactory results with much less metal. Any note required is given by a tube of constant diameter and thickness, the various tones and semi-tones differing only in length, and the possibility of obtaining notes with mathematical precision is an advantage of great importance in the tuning of chimes. The range is less than that of ordinary bells, increasing with the diameter, thus far produced from 1 mile to 3 miles. These tubes have a maximum length of 10 feet, and the saving in metal is illustrated by the statement that a tubular bell of 24-inches diameter, with a range of half a mile, weighs only 1,540 pounds, while one of the ordinary bells of the same range weighs 66,000, the difference in cost being that between \$1,200 and \$20,000.

A very few exceptions to the rule that animals live with their backs toward the sky and away from the earth are found by M. Henri Comte. The larva of the beautiful floral beetle, whose winged existence is mostly spent near roses and other flowers, is the best example. This grub is a fat worm that does much damage to plant roots in gardens. It has three pairs of legs seemingly designed for use, yet it creeps about grotesquely on its back, pushing itself forward six inches to a foot a minute by controllable increments of its segments aided by a brush of hairs. The aquatic world has its water boatmen, or *Notonecta*, that always swim back downward. Among mammals are the sloths and other Edentates that spend most of their lives upside down, suspended from trees by their claws.

The banks of the Suez Canal are being protected from shifting by trees and shrubs. Reeds, at first shielded from the waves from passing keels by fascines, have been placed along nine miles of the canal proper and the whole length of the Suezwater Canal. Plantations of Gambury, irrigated from the Nile, are being established on the slopes.

The French idea that home-produced alcohol could be substituted for Russian and American light oils for driving motor-cars has not been encouraged by experiment. Analysis proves that the alcohol has only about one-half the carbon of a mineral oil, with 45 times the oxygen, and its calorific value is little more than one-half. Tested in a Brochot horizontal engine of two to three horse-power and in a large vertical motor of three to four horse-power, the new fuel showed nearly twice as great consumption as that of light oil. The price of the alcohol being double that of even the light oils, it is calculated that in France the power yielded by \$1.00 of petroleum would cost the equivalent of \$1.75 from light oil, and at least \$5.50 from alcohol.

The "Jigger Flea" is a South African pest whose recent spread from the vicinity of Delagoa Bay to points further south has been brought to Government notice. It differs greatly from the ordinary flea, lacks the latter's agility, and attacks only the soles of the feet, into which it bores holes and lays eggs therein. The results are liable to be very painful. Sanitary precautions have been recommended, and medical men at the various ports of the Cape have been requested to give the little invader their attention.

One of the water-mains of Turin—a ten-inch cast-iron pipe laid in 1858—was so incrustated in eight years that the delivering